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What Is The Gender Of G-D According To The Bible?

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0 COMMENTS (HTTPS://WWW.PATHEOS.COM/BLOGS/RECLAIMINGTHETRUTH/2023/06/WHAT-IS-THE-GENDER-OF-G-D/#COMMENTS-SECTION)

What is the Gender of G-d?

In our **previous post (https://www.patheos.com/blogs/reclaimingthetruth/2023/05/do-spirits-have-genders-according-to-the-bible/)**, we established that spirits do have genders. Thus, if we believe G-d to be a spiritual being, she/he must have a gender. The question then becomes, what is the gender of G-d?

The Bible tends to use the pronoun he for G-d. For this reason, throughout history, G-d has been seen as only a man. However, this ignores the fact The Holy Spirit is feminine in Hebrew, as we established in our post **"*Do Spirits Have Genders*?" (https://www.patheos.com/blogs/reclaimingthetruth/2023/05/do-spirits-have-genders-according-to-the-bible/)**. It also ignores the many references in the Bible to G-d as a mother.

Aspects of G-d

Therefore, in order to determine G-d's gender we need to explore the aspects and actions of G-d. We also need to examine the Biblical text for references to G-d's gender.

What is the Gender of G-d if G-d is Creator

Perhaps G-d's most important aspect is Creator. Genesis tells us G-d created the world. She/He also created humans in their own image. Which gender creates life in their own image? Only females. Only females have the ability to create new life on this planet. While reproduction does require both males and females, without the female's ability to sustain that life within herself no new souls would be born into our world. Therefore, creation is a feminine aspect.

Warrior

However, G-d has masculine features too. She/he plays the role of a **warrior (https://bibleinterp.arizona.edu/articles/god-conflict-images-divine-warrior-ancient-jewish-and-early-christian-texts)**. When the Pharoh refuses to let The Israelites go G-d sends **10 plagues (https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/10-plagues-of-egypt-bible-story.html)** the last of which is the death of every firstborn Egyptian child. G-d also goes before the Israelites **into war (https://biblehub.com/exodus/13-18.htm)**. Typically, we think of warfare as a masculine quality. Therefore, we can not say that G-d is only feminine.

Comforter

Yet, another feminine aspect of G-d is that of a comforter. Both Psalms and Isaiah assure us that G-d is our comforter. **Isaiah 51:12 (https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+51%3A12&version=ESV)** tells us: "I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass,". **Psalm 23:4**

(https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+23%3A4&version=ESV) states, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Mothers and females are usually thought of as the comforters. Thus, we see that G-d has another feminine aspect.

Disciplinarian

Still, G-d also functions as a strict disciplinarian. Proverbs 3:11-12 teaches us:

"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline

or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,

as a father the son in whom he delights.

As Deuteronomy 8:5 reminds us discipline is often thought to come from a masculine aspect, such as a father. "5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you." Thus, if G-d is both a comforter and a disciplinarian, G-d has aspects of both the feminine mother and the masculine father. This androgynous gender of G-d continues to be seen as we look at G-d through the study of Kabbalah.

What Gender is G-d in Kabbalah?

The study of **Kabbalah (https://thegoldenpathway.org/twelve-gates/gate-number-11/#:~:text=The%20Kabbalists%20teach%20that%20the%20Tree%20of%20Life%2C,to%20have%20one-on-one%20relationship%20with%20God.)** teaches us the following aspects of G-d: Crown, Understanding, Wisdom, Justice/Judgement, Love/Mercy, Splendor/Majesty, Victory, Beauty/Compassion, Foundation, and Kingdom. These aspects make up The Kabbalah Tree of Life. The Tree of Life is balanced with a feminine trait on one side and its masculine counterpart on the other. For example, love/mercy are across from Justice/judgment. Love and mercy are considered feminine while justice/judgment are considered masculine.

Therefore, G-d clearly has aspects that are male and aspects that are feminine. It is important to note that the only aspect of G-d on the tree which is connected to all the others is Beauty/Compassion which is at the center or heart of the tree. Beauty and compassion are feminine aspects of G-d and they are the center or heart of all the other aspects. They are where all the aspects of God connect. Shekhinah in Kabbalah studies is a purely feminine aspect of G-d and is seen as a mother or sister. It represents nurturing and compassion. This is the lowest aspect of the Kabbalah tree of life and is therefore responsible for linking the lower physical world to the higher realm. Shekhinah is the Jewish Divine Feminine and is mentioned in the Zohar, Midrash, and Talmud, as stated by **Shekhinah: The Divine Feminine (https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-divine-feminine-in-kabbalah-an-example-of-jewish-renewal/)**.

What is the Gender of G-d in Torah Verses?

Mother

In the Torah we see G-d spoken of in terms of a mother. **Isaiah 46:3-4 (https://www.sefaria.org/Isaiah.46?lang=bi&with=all&lang2=en)**has G-d declare that she/he has carried Isreal in their womb, born them, and will carry them.

"Listen to Me, O House of Jacob,
All that are left of the House of Israel,
Who have been carried since birth,
Supported since leaving the womb:
;Till you grow old, I will still be the same
;When you turn gray, it is I who will carry
;I was the Maker, and I will be the Bearer
.And I will carry and rescue [you]"

Clearly, this is an image of G-d as a female, for we know that only a female has the ability to carry and give birth to children.

Father

However, we also see G-d as a **father (https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/250901)**. Deuteronomy 1:31 has Moses tell the people, "[31] and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." Thus, G-d is both mother and father according to the Torah.

What is the Gender of G-d if G-d is Wisdom

Yet, G-d also appears as lady wisdom. As we saw in The Kabbalah Tree Of Life, Wisodm is an aspect of G-d. As **Feminine Images of God (https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/feminine-images-of-god)**pointed out, G-d is portrayed as the feminine lady Wisdom in **Proverbs (https://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/8.htm)**. Proverbs 8:1 clearly states that Wisdom is a" her." "Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?" Lady Wisdom tells us in Proverbs 8:30 that she was present at the time of creation. This should be of no surprise as we know that creation is a feminine aspect of G-d.

So, G-d is Androgynous. G-d has aspects of both the male and the female. She/he is both mother and father. G-d is the original they/them. Be very careful when you judge Gender Fluid or Transexual people, for they are truly made in the image of our creator. Do not tell women that they are inferior or not able to teach. For G-d in the feminine creator aspect of Lady Wisdom created the world. Women are the embodiment of wisdom.

If G-d's gender is androgynous, what is the sexuality of G-d? Stay tuned for the last article in this series to find out. You can **click here, (https://www.patheos.com/blogs/reclaimingthetruth/)** and enter your email address to be notified of all future articles. To learn more about gender and sexuality in The Bible please read my **book (https://www.amazon.com/Faith-Under-Rainbow-Reclaiming-Homosexuality/dp/B09P8BW89K)**.